



TRANSFORMATION TRENDS—9 SEPTEMBER ISSUE

“My hope is that...the budget that we’re building [for 2004] will be informed by a process where you would have extensive involvement by CinCs as well as service chiefs and force up on the table a set of issues that otherwise don’t get forced up. Force up the issues of how you begin to balance risks. War risks against personnel risks, against transformation risks against modernization risks.”

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld interview with the *New York Times*

Defense Trends:

New Transformation Roadmaps Critique—Future versions of the service transformation roadmaps should focus on integrating service concepts into “a unified joint concept that stresses mutually enabling operations,” according to a roadmap assessment done for the Joint Staff by National Defense University. Each of the service roadmaps possess both positive and negative aspects, the assessment concludes, recommending that the still evolving Transformation Planning Guidance must be rationalized with Pentagon planning and budgeting functions. Greater emphasis on how transformed U.S. forces will operate with coalition partners must also be addressed.

Growing U.S.-European Military Gap—The “cooperability gap” between U.S. and NATO allies is “becoming unbridgeable,” as the American military continues to push ahead with transformation, warns a new RAND report. A major new initiative is required to “begin transforming the forces of leading allies” so they can engage in “advanced expeditionary operations” with American forces, according to the report called *Shoulder to Shoulder: The Road to U.S.-European Military Cooperability*. France, Germany and the United Kingdom are the nations a new initiative should first focus on.

Joint Operational Warfighting—Officials at JFCOM are developing a new “warfighting construct for the next decade” that is called Joint Operational Warfighting. Key to the concept is the issue of adaptability and coping with warfare that will be complex, confusing and chaotic. Three “cornerstones” of the concept include the ideas of singular battlespace, operations, and adaptive command. JOW is “a vehicle for transformation of the entire armed forces,” according to the concept’s authors.

Robert Holzer, Outreach Director, Office of Force Transformation, 1700 N. Moore St.,
Suite 1425, Arlington, VA 22209
Tel. (703) 696-4250 ext. 205 email: holzerr@ndu.edu



Transformation Communications Office—The Pentagon is establishing a new Transformation Communications Office to oversee the development and implementation of future satellite communications architecture for the DoD. Rear Adm. Rand Fisher will lead the new effort. The objective is to ensure communications compatibility across DoD, the intelligence community, and NASA. Studies suggest that adopting this scheme will “increase our capabilities by a factor of 10,” said Pete Teets, DoD’s executive agent for space. The new office will comprise a total of 20-25 personnel.

Homeland Security Industry Group Established—A group of companies involved in homeland security efforts have banded together to create the Homeland Security Industries Association. Bruce Aitken is president of the non-profit organization. “There is no greater national or international priority than homeland security. It is the business of all business,” Aitken said. The association has issued short position papers on seven key areas. These include: port/maritime security; best business practices; bio-terrorism/chemical and nuclear security; critical infrastructure protection; information sharing technology; information security; and airport security.

Technology Broker Plan—OSD acquisition officials are assessing a “Technology Broker” concept to engage more high technology firms in defense research. The concept envisions establishing a “process to filter, establish, and maintain meaningful information systems on selected technologies,” according to a briefing. Under the concept OSD could enable agreements between technology developers and interested program offices or warfighting commands.

Military Recruitment Recommendations—The DoD should embrace innovative educational mechanisms as an inducement for enlistment and expand the cohort of youths it seeks to recruit for military service in coming decades, according to a new report from the National Academies of Science. More youths are opting for college than ever before, the report concludes, recommending that DoD develop more innovative solutions for tying military service to higher education. In addition, the department should expand recruitment efforts to older potential recruits who have either dropped out of college or delayed their long term career plans.

NOTE: Transformation Trends is provided as a means to highlight new and emerging issues in defense and commercial realms to key decision-makers and in no way constitutes endorsement or official recognition of any idea, concept or program.

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